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Disarmament Commission
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Draft report

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I. Introduction

1. At its seventy-first session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/82, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012, 68/63 of 5 December 2013, 69/77 of 2 December 2014 and 70/68 of 7 December 2015,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission",[2] Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3]

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, notes that the Commission has not submitted any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly in the course of the past 17 years, and thus encourages the revitalization of the work of the Commission in its current triennial cycle;

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/71/42).
[2] Resolution 44/119 C, annex.
[3] Resolution S-10/2.

3. *Emphasizes* the need for a focused and results-oriented discussion on the items on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982 and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[2]

5. *Recalls* the fact that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492, at its 355th meeting, on 4 April 2016, the Disarmament Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2016,[1] on the understanding that consultations would continue on ways and means to implement resolution 69/77, and that the Commission decided that the agenda for its substantive session of 2015 should serve for the period 2015-2017;

6. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2017:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

7. *Notes* the consultations with Member States conducted by the Chair of the Disarmament Commission during its intersessional period regarding a working paper containing a proposal for the inclusion of a third item in its agenda for the remaining period of the present triennial cycle[4] in the context of considering ways and means to implement General Assembly resolution 69/77, in accordance with Assembly decision 52/492, and encourages the Commission to hold informal discussions on the subject contained in the above-mentioned working paper during the substantive session of the Commission in 2017, without prejudice to the deliberations on the existing agenda items;

8. *Also notes* that the Disarmament Commission encourages the Chairs of its working groups to continue, during the intersessional period, informal consultations on the agenda item allocated to each of the groups;

9. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (*e*) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

10. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2017, namely from 3 to 21 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";

[4] A/CN.10/2016/WP.1.

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2016 session,[5] together with all the official records of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

12. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2017 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2017 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

II. Organization and work of the substantive session of 2017

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2017 at United Nations Headquarters at its 361st plenary meeting, on 13 February 2017 (see A/CN.10/PV.361). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its substantive session of 2017 in accordance with the "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 44/119 C, annex) and in the light of Assembly resolution 71/82. The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the position of Chair among the geographic regions. The Commission elected the Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, Gabriela Martinic, as Chair for its 2017 session. The Commission took note of the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2017.

3. At its 362nd meeting, on 3 April 2017, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2017 (A/CN.10/L.78). The agenda reads as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
5. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/71/27).

6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session.

7. Other business.

4. At the same meeting the Commission took note of its schedule of meetings for the session (A/CN.10/2017/CRP.1).

5. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 21 April 2017. In the course of its session, the Commission held six plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.362-367). The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the secretariat of the Commission, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs represented the substantive secretariat.

6. During the 2017 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:
Gabriela **Martinic** (Argentina)

Vice-Chairs:
Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Benin, Latvia, Lithuania, Libya, Pakistan and Turkey

Rapporteur:
Ali **Robatjazi** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

7. At its 362nd meeting, on 3 April, the Commission elected Wilmer Mendez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4, and Lachezara Stoeva (Bulgaria) as Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5.

8. At its 362nd to 364th meetings, on 3 and 4 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.362-364). Representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), France, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

9. At its 362nd meeting, on 3 April, the Commission heard a statement by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

10. The Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4. Working Group I held 11 meetings, from 5 to 20 April.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5. Working Group II held 12 meetings, from 4 to 20 April.

12. The Commission held informal discussions, pursuant to resolution 71/82, on the subject contained in working paper A/CN.10/2016/WP.1, "In accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189), preparation of recommendations to promote the practical

implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space". Some Member States considered that the issue was of interest, to be addressed by the Commission.

13. In accordance with the past practice of the Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

14. The Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of documents submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission for its substantive session of 2017 (A/CN.10/211).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

15. In the course of the Commission's work, the document listed below, dealing with substantive questions, was submitted and considered:

Working paper submitted by the States members of the League of Arab States (A/CN.10/2017/WG.I/WP.1)

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

16. At its 366th plenary meeting, on 21 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted ad referendum the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

17. At its 367th meeting, on 21 April, the Commission adopted, by consensus, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to be presented to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair, the Bureau members, the Chairs of the Working Groups and the Secretariat.

18. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

[to be inserted]

19. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

[to be inserted]